



# Elko County Natural Resource Management Advisory Commission

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## ELKO COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

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### 6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Spratling called the regular meeting of the Elko County Natural Resource Management Advisory Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. on **February 23, 2011**, in Suite 102 of the Nannini Administration Building, 540 Court Street, Elko, Nevada.

Members Present:                    Craig Spratling  
    Thad Alger  
    Ken Wellington  
    Orson Tingey  
    John C. Carpenter  
    Ralph R. Sacrison  
    Meghan Brown

Absent :                                None

Others Present:                    Randy Brown, Natural Resource Manager  
    Kelly Watson, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
    Jeff Williams, Elko County Commissioner  
    Ken Miller, Elko BLM District Manager  
    David Overcast, BLM Tuscarora Field Manager  
    Bryan Fuell, BLM Wells Field Manager  
    Scott Richey, USFS Geologist and Acting District Ranger  
    Gar Abbas, USFS District Ranger

### I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Allegiance was pledged.

### II. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING AND DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: ACTION ITEM

**MOTION:** Commissioner Wellington moved to accept the October 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and December 7<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Sacrison seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE:**

AYE: Craig Spratling  
Thad Alger  
Ken Wellington  
Orson Tingey  
John C. Carpenter  
Ralph R. Sacrison  
Meghan Brown

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**III. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC: NON-ACTION ITEM**

There were no comments made by the general public at this time.

**During the meeting the order of items was changed numerous times without official action by the Chairman.**

**IV. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION DUTIES AND ADVISORY CAPACITY NON-ACTION ITEM**

A. Discussion of NRMAC protocol and actions as an advisory board to provide recommendation and consideration to the Elko County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Brown indicated NRMAC had been operating outside of protocol and wanted to bring it to everyone's attention so everyone understands what the protocol is and what is NRMAC's responsibility. He added that from now on any action taken by NRMAC will be in the form of a recommendation to the County Commissioners and he explained what action would be appropriate.

There was discussion about previous action taken by NRMAC and NRMAC's responsibility being to provide recommendations to the County Commission.

Commissioner Brown asked if NRMAC must make a formal request to the County Commission to be able to coordinate with other similar committees.

Mr. Brown indicated NRMAC would have to be instructed by the Board of County Commissioners and he indicated there is not a budget for traveling or correspondence. He added that NRMAC could forward a recommendation to the County Commission and the County Commission could

instruct NRMAC to conduct meetings with other similar committees.

Commissioner Brown stated she personally thought NRMAC should move forward in the direction of better coordination with other counties dealing with different issues especially when it comes to federal lands. She added that other counties and BLM and Forest Service districts in Nevada and adjacent states are going through a lot of the same issues and she felt NRMAC and other communities could be at the forefront together as communities and commissions. She stated she would like to see an individual of NRMAC have the role to coordinate with other natural resource committees in other counties.

County Commissioner Williams suggested a recommendation be made to the County Commission to allow NRMAC to coordinate with other committees on a long range basis.

There was continued discussion about communication and/or coordination with other committees similar to NRMAC and it being beneficial since some of them have dealt with the same issues Elko County is dealing with.

**V. NEVADA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ACTION ITEM**

- A. Discussion and information related to the Spruce Allotment and the proposed wild horse sanctuary by Madeleine Pickens and all matters related thereto.
- B. Consideration of the recommendation to the Elko County Board of Commissioners concerning the holding of a public information meeting in the City of Wells.

Commissioner Brown indicated Ms. Pickens has been occupied with the Antelope Complex wild horse gather and her efforts have transitioned towards that and the other ranch she has purchased is having repairs and maintenance being done. She added that potential for converting cattle aums to horse aums is public but a proposal has not been submitted to the BLM yet. She further stated item B was added to the agenda because she felt it would be beneficial for the City of Wells and the County to know where each other are in regards to the Madeleine Pickens proposal and having a County Commission meeting in Wells including different agencies and interested parties would be beneficial because she feels the City of Wells is looking at the proposal as an economic development project and diversification.

There was discussion about the logistics of holding a meeting in Wells and the specific items to be discussed during the meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carpenter moved to recommend to the Elko County Commission to conduct a hearing in Wells to address the wild horse sanctuary proposal by Madeleine Pickens with the Wells City Council and any other items the Commission would like to discuss. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion.

Chairman Spratling asked how the BLM would feel about a meeting being held in Wells.

Ken Miller indicated he felt it would be beneficial and they would have representation in attendance.

Upon the question being called for by Commissioner Carpenter, the motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE:**

AYE: Craig Spratling  
Thad Alger  
Ken Wellington  
Orson Tingey  
John C. Carpenter  
Ralph R. Sacrison  
Meghan Brown

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**VI. AGENCY REPORT AND UPDATES:**

**A. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1) Final Grazing Permit Renewal Decision for Hubbard Vineyard Allotment and Addendum.
  - a. Notice of Appeal, Statement of Reasons, Petition for Stay by Western Watersheds Project.

Bryan Fuell indicated the decision on the Hubbard Vineyard Allotment and permit renewal for the Boies ranch was appealed by Western Watersheds Project approximately two weeks ago and indicated he was available for questions.

Commissioner Brown addressed some of the information within the appeal and asked if the data was accurate.

Mr. Fuell indicated within the terms of their current permit, the Boies have been utilizing the land as contained in the decision with periods of rest and the use is lower than their permitted use because of the program agreed to by the Boies.

Commissioner Brown asked if the wildlands addressed as a concern in the appeal would be reviewed.

Mr. Fuell indicated that had already been done during the process.

Commissioner Brown asked about the statement included in the appeal that the BLM has failed to provide necessary information analysis for the “No Action” alternative and it asks what the “No Action” alternative is and if WWP has addressed this issue repeatedly in other appeals.

Mr. Fuell answered that the statement is contained in another appeal currently in the Ely District where the judge ruled in regards to “No Action” which would be their current permit and implementing what has already been agreed to and added that there is an idea that “No Action” would include no grazing but under the current Resource Management Plan it is in an area of grazing so no grazing would not be an action considered.

Commissioner Brown continued quoting from the appeal and asked for an explanation and the BLM’s position on the allegations in the appeal.

Mr. Fuell addressed Commissioner Brown’s inquiries and indicated WWP has asked for a stay and the BLM will respond and explained the process regarding the appeal.

Commissioner Brown asked if Boies is grazing under their current permit so there is no interruption during the appeal process.

Mr. Fuell stated they are already operating under the current permit.

Commissioner Carpenter indicated he had asked the County Commissioners to give permission for the DA to look into this item and Boies lawyer was contacted and he is supposed to get back to the DA on how the County can help. He added that once the lawyer responds, NRMAC will need to get permission from the County Commission to do what is necessary and he believes the DA has provided some information regarding the economics of livestock in Elko County. He added that he has been in contact with Rick Orr who looks at the appeals and is contracted with the Sustainable Grazing Coalition and he is willing to do what he can. He continued that if the County is a party to the issue it might put a different perspective on it and provided some information about whether public interest is in favor of granting the stay is one of the items to be reviewed.

Mr. Fuell stated if the appeal goes to hearing the Boies and their attorney will be able to be a part of the process.

**The order of the meeting was moved to items 9) and 10) of the BLM Agency Reports.**

- 2) Secretarial Order 3310-“Wild Lands” designations and management of designated areas.
  - a. Comment on Secretary Salazar promoting Wilderness Management of BLM Lands by Holland & Hart.

Mr. Miller handed out a questions and answers list and the secretarial order and quoted some points within the secretarial order. He indicated the goal is to make decisions to impact wilderness characteristics as opposed to impacting them without decision. He added that when the BLM receives a proposal many issues are required to be considered including wilderness like characteristics. He continued giving examples of projects that would be reviewed for wilderness like characteristics which include size and ability to find solitude and indicated every future project will be analyzed for wilderness characteristics during the process. He further indicated some projects are located in places where there are other conditions that keep it from having wilderness like characteristics so they are not an issue. He continued stating he had visited with Elko County representatives and he made the mistake of stating when looking at Elko County he didn’t think many things would have wilderness characteristics but after talking to his Staff he

should have said it is greater and will impact a number of places. He also stated that the executive order requires an inventory of the district be completed including maintenance of the inventory to put together a GIS layer to display wilderness like characteristics to the public in an easy format.

Commissioner Tingey asked if the inventory would be a field check inventory or a map review inventory.

Mr. Miller indicated it would contain both due to data they already have in GIS layers but there are areas that haven't been visited for some time due to lack of activity. He continued that the inventory would happen over the next 18 months to 2 years.

Commissioner Brown asked when the BLM would receive their final manuals regarding inventory and planning from the national office.

Mr. Miller explained that Commissioner Brown was asking about a BLM manual that will describe how to do inventory and wilderness like characteristic assessment by project and public comment was due fourteen days ago. He continued stating the manual will be coming out soon and the purpose for the manual was the Secretary and Director didn't believe there was a solid wilderness policy.

Commissioner Brown asked if the inventory would be conducted before the final manual was provided.

Mr. Miller stated that they would start assessing information they currently have and when they receive the guidance they will move forward.

Commissioner Wellington asked if the inventory will include water that the BLM has filed on.

Mr. Miller indicated no, and added he expected it would address the wilderness characteristics and that is how the inventory will be done.

Commissioner Wellington gave an example of water in the wilderness that have been filed on by the BLM in the Spruce Mountain area and asked if that would be part of the wilderness.

Mr. Miller answered it would be considered to the degree that it is a man made project that inhibits solitude or other characteristics.

Commissioner Brown interjected some concerns she had when reading through the order and manuals regarding the wilderness characteristic assessments.

Mr. Miller indicated they won't specifically be looking at whether the area has a water right associated with a water development but water development will be assessed. He added that improvements such as fences are not components that will eliminate it from having wilderness like characteristics and they expect if it is a removable improvement then it does not impact wilderness like characteristics. He continued that they did not expect the water rights issue to be a piece of the assessment at all.

Commissioner Wellington quoted “Americans love the wild places where they hunt, fish, hike and get away, etc.” from the press release from Secretary Salazar and asked if this is the motivation behind the order and asked if the BLM has worked with the Wildlife Commission or Department of Wildlife concerning issues that could be affected such as springs that are developed or in an area that affect elk, sheep or domestic livestock.

There was continued discussion about what would be considered during the assessment for wilderness characteristics and the importance of public participation including input from governmental agencies during the process and the possible designation of wild lands during the Land Use Planning revision process.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved to recommend to the Elko County Commission to be aware of any action concerning the Wild Lands Order and inventory and be a part of the public process. Commissioner Wellington seconded the motion and upon the question being called for the motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE:**

AYE: Craig Spratling  
Thad Alger  
Ken Wellington  
Orson Tingey  
John C. Carpenter  
Ralph R. Sacrison  
Meghan Brown

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**During the course of the meeting Commissioner Brown requested the meeting be returned to this item for discussion and the following discussion took place after item 8) of the BLM Agency Reports.**

Commissioner Brown indicated she had received an e-mail from the Public Lands Council and they are trying to get cattlemen’s organizations and multiple use organizations to inventory roads within allotments and she suggested it would be a good thing for the County to do and encourage the public to do. She added she would forward the e-mail to the other members of NRMAC for their consideration.

There was discussion about inventory done by the public at large and if the BLM has a means to accept and identify the information at this time and the responsibility of the public to remind the BLM where there are existing roads, trails and ways that are important to be recognized.

**The order of the meeting was moved to item 11) of BLM Agency Reports.**

3) Mountain Pasture on the Fox Spring Allotment fire disclosure decision.

Dave Overcast indicated one of the things discussed at the meeting is the appeal process and he provided a copy of the provisions for protest, appeal and petition for stay which are provided with BLM decisions. He quoted objectives that the BLM have that are common across the district when evaluating areas that have been affected by fire and stated until the objectives are met the area is closed for up to three years and then the area is reevaluated. He stated with the Fox Spring Allotment 28 aums will be temporarily suspended and the entire area will be fenced.

Commissioner Carpenter asked if the permittee had agreed to the decision.

Mr. Overcast indicated he has not had anyone protest, appeal or show concern on the decision.

Chairman Spratling asked if the area took in a large part of the allotment or just a small portion.

Mr. Overcast indicated he did not have the allotment boundary or numbers available but believed it was a small portion of the allotment.

There was discussion regarding the temporary fence that would be constructed by the BLM, materials that would be used and what time frame would be considered temporary.

Commissioner Wellington asked what the cost of the fencing would be.

Mr. Miller indicated it costs approximately \$7,500, per mile of fencing.

There was discussion regarding the availability of funding for rehabilitation projects.

Commissioner Sacrison asked if it has been considered to evaluate allowing the cheat grass to grow and how long it will take to be healthy enough to be grazed which will allow the natives to come back which will save funds that would be expended.

Mr. Overcast indicated ecologically they have seen cheatgrass develop into a monoculture and there is question on how nutritious that is in August and September and it doesn't give them the time to make decisions on how they are going to allow multiple uses on public lands. He added that another component of the cheatgrass that causes concern is the fire frequency because if it gets into a frequent fire system then it continues to be cheatgrass. He continued stating another component from a wildlife perspective as well as grazing for domestic use are the brush species and at the Tuscarora Field Office approximately 70% of the field office has burned over the last ten years and the BLM is trying to reestablish a sagebrush component which would help sagebrush obligate species and there is several different objectives when they do rehabilitation.

4) Squaw Valley Ranch pipeline project.

Mr. Overcast handed out a map of the area depicting the location of the pipeline and gave an overview of the location and the project and stated he was available for questions.

Commissioner Brown asked if the pipeline was for animal distribution purposes.

Mr. Overcast indicated there have been a lot of range improvements in the area and distribution utilization is part of the component as well as putting places to water in areas that are not going to be as impacted such as riparian areas.

There was continued discussion regarding the project and that it could benefit wildlife and livestock in the area.

Chairman Spratling asked if there are any horses in the project area.

Mr. Overcast and other members of the committee indicated there are herd management areas located north of the project area.

5) Hog Tommy Allotment Final Determinations of the Standards and Guidelines, Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Mr. Overcast indicated the Hog Tommy Allotment is a small allotment and its use is from April 15<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> and it has met the standards and guides discussed earlier and a deferred rotation system is in place. He added that the permit is good for about 10 years and there aren't any changes in active permitted aums or periods of use.

Commissioner Wellington asked if the BLM has spoke with the permittee and if she has any problems with the decision.

Mr. Overcast indicated any time an action is done the permittee is notified and they have not received any protests, appeals or concerns from the permittee or any other party as of yet.

There was discussion regarding the location of the project in relation to a greenbelt to be established during new development in the Spring Creek area.

**The order of the meeting was changed to item 7).**

6) BLM Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Mr. Miller handed out a summary of the cooperative that included a map of the area and provided some highlights contained in the summary.

There was discussion about who would be members of the steering committee and how they would be chosen.

Mr. Miller continued highlighting information from the summary. He added that he was unable to answer the Commission's questions regarding the cooperative but they did have a representative at the last meeting and will work to stay involved and be heard.

Commissioner Brown asked if there is any issue with this overlapping current things the BLM is already doing as far as priorities for sagegrouse and other responsibilities.

Mr. Miller indicated that is why they are staying involved with the cooperative.

Chairman Spratling asked where the funding would come from for the cooperative.

Mr. Miller answered that it comes from the Department of Interior including BLM and from the national and state office levels. He added that it is a serious initiative and it has focus funding for at least the next couple of years.

There was continued discussion about the purpose of the cooperative and how the BLM will stay involved with the efforts.

**Upon a request from Commissioner Carpenter to make a motion the order of the meeting was returned to item 8).**

7) BLM Big Six Communications Tower – Newmont Mining Corporation

Mr. Overcast indicated the project is an existing communication site and during the EA process there was an issue with the height of the tower disturbing the sagegrouse lek and habitat in the area and the BLM asked what could be done and in this instance the proponent was willing to use some land in another area that wouldn't have the influence.

Commissioner Brown asked if an appeal was expected on the project.

Mr. Overcast indicated he was not expecting an appeal and the periods for protest and appeals had passed. He further explained the tower was near the mine site and was needed for safety and communication purposes.

8) BLM RCG Settlement Agreement on Tosawihi Quarries

Mr. Overcast handed out a map for the Hollister Underground Mine Project EIS that delineates the affected areas. He indicated this is an important area for Native Americans and gave an overview of why the settlement agreement was needed and entered into by the parties. He further reviewed some statements and terms contained in the Settlement Agreement and how the funds created by the agreement could be used.

County Commissioner Williams asked how much damage was done that caused the reason for the agreement.

Mr. Miller answered the question and gave specifics of the area damaged and how the mining company worked with the BLM to come up with the agreement.

County Commissioner Williams recognized the working relationship that was accomplished during the process of the agreement being developed and commended the BLM for their efforts.

**Upon request by Commissioner Brown, the order of the meeting was returned to item 2) of the BLM Agency Reports.**

**Upon returning to this item by request of Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Carpenter moved to recommend the County Commissioners support the Hollister Underground mine project. There was discussion that the County Commissioners had**

**already taken action to support the project and the motion died due to the lack of a second.**

**The order of the meeting was changed to VI. C. Agency Reports United States Forest Service.**

- 9) BLM Dalton Allotment S&G
- 10) BLM Metropolis Seeding Allotment S&G

Mr. Fuell indicated they are working on the items but are not in a position to release the draft S&G assessments yet due to other priorities. He gave an overview for renewal of a permit and how data is analyzed in relevance to the Standards & Guides objectives given through the Resource Advisory Council and how it is reviewed during the process.

Chairman Spratling asked at what point of the process are protests accepted.

Mr. Fuell explained the process of when protests are accepted and what action is taken upon receiving a protest.

Chairman Spratling asked how many of the permit renewals did the BLM anticipate being appealed by WWP.

Mr. Fuell indicated one hundred percent of the decisions his office has released have been appealed by the WWP.

There was discussion about work priorities and when fuels treatment projects priorities are developed.

**The order of the meeting was moved to item 2) of the BLM Agency Reports.**

- 11) BLM Prescribed fire projects completed by Elko District BLM from 1997 until present day.

**Chairman Spratling called a ten minute recess.**

Mr. Brown indicated the item reflected information requested by County Commissioner Warren Russell and since he is no longer the liaison to the Commission it wouldn't need to be discussed.

**The order of the meeting was moved to item 6).**

- 12) BLM Discussion of the development of a proposed BLM Regional Wilderness Characteristics Study.

**Discussion on this item was included in the discussion for item 2) under BLM Agency Reports.**

- B. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND  
ITEMS OF DISCUSSION. NON-ACTION ITEM

C. UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) USFS Historical account of controlled burns conducted by the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest from 2001 until present.

Mr. Brown indicated this item had also been requested by County Commissioner Russell and since he is not the liaison to the Commission any longer the item would not be discussed.

- 2) USFS Planning Rule – February 14, 2011 Proposed Planning Rule.

Gar Abbas indicated this is an update on the Forest Service Planning Rule and introduced the Acting District Ranger Scott Richey who will give the Commission information on the Planning Rule.

Scott Richey informed the Commission that the comment period is under way now through May 16<sup>th</sup>. He added on March 21<sup>st</sup> there will be two listening sessions for the Planning Rule but the location has not been determined but when it is the Commission will be notified. He read an excerpt from a summary of the Proposed Planning Rule that was available on their website and stated it is meant to be a framework where the Forest Plans can then follow. He suggested the Commissioners download the EIS from the website and review it to develop questions and items of discussion for the March 21<sup>st</sup> listening session.

Mr. Abbas indicated the Forest Service has a Forest Plan which is their guiding document for management of the forests and it is outdated and needs to be updated. The process has been started over the last ten years but the process has not been identified and this is a Washington document that has been put together to guide how the Forest Plan needs to be developed and what should be addressed during the process. He added that there are numerous lawsuits that have said the Planning Rule process isn't working and the Forest Service needs to develop a new one and that is what the Washington office is trying to put together with public input.

Mr. Brown indicated Elko County has started formulating questions, opinions and comments on the Forest Planning Rule that will be submitted.

Mr. Abbas explained that the item is under the public comment period currently and the listening sessions will be held to provide the public an opportunity to hear a presentation on the rule and provide comments and suggestions to the Forest Service on development of the rule. He added that all comments will be directed to the Washington office for compilation and consideration.

Mr. Brown stated the Commission will be provided a copy of the comments to be sent to the Forest Service on the Planning Rule.

D. UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE – OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND  
ITEMS OF DISCUSSION. NON-ACTION ITEM

VII. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE ELKO COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN: ACTION ITEM

- A. Review and comment concerning the DRAFT Ordinance Amendment addressing predator control within Title 12 of the Elko County Code

**The order of the meeting was changed to item B below.**

Mr. Brown indicated this item was to consider predator control and funding and he understood Mr. Wellington would like to table this item and refer it to the Elko County Wildlife Commission Advisory Board.

Commissioner Wellington explained how the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was created and its responsibilities and indicated there are issues regarding Heritage funding from the public at the Advisory Board's meetings and he would like to discuss this as a public hearing at their next meeting of the Advisory Board. He added that he could support the directive if Heritage Funding was not referred to in the wording and asked for permission to refer the item to the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife for consideration.

Mr. Brown asked if the Heritage Fund was created for predator control.

Commissioner Wellington indicated not specifically.

There was continued discussion about the funds collected and what they are earmarked to be used for.

Chairman Spratling stated it would be appropriate to table action on the item until the Advisory Board took action on it.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Wellington moved to refer Directive 19-9 to the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE:**

AYE:	Craig Spratling Thad Alger Ken Wellington Orson Tingey John C. Carpenter Ralph R. Sacrison Meghan Brown
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NAY:	None
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ABSENT:	None
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ABSTENTIONS:	None
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**The order of the meeting was moved to item VIII.**

- B. Review and comment concerning the DRAFT Ordinance Amendment addressing Federal Land Management Mining Permitting process within Title 12 of the Elko County Code.

Mr. Brown stated this item was requested by Commissioner Carpenter and he wanted him to review it for any revisions. He added the amendment refers to the federal government's permitting process for mineral exploration and operations on federally managed lands. He read Directive 14-10 that would be an amendment to the Plan.

Commissioner Carpenter stated Senator Ensign was talking about the issue and felt that NRMAC could continue to support the effort.

There was discussion about the wording of the directive and if the County could make it more specific or should it be left as written.

Commissioner Tingey asked about including geothermal and wind energy with the process of mining production.

Mr. Brown indicated those are addressed under the energy portion directives of the Plan.

There was continued discussion about the way the directive was worded and what changes could be made.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carpenter moved to refer for approval to the Elko County Commission Directive 14-10 to be added to the Elko County Public Land Use and Natural Resource Management Plan. Commissioner Wellington seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**VOTE:**

AYE:	Craig Spratling Thad Alger Ken Wellington Orson Tingey John C. Carpenter Ralph R. Sacrison Meghan Brown
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NAY:	None
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ABSENT:	None
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ABSTENTIONS:	None
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Commissioner Brown asked if there is anything in the Plan about wilderness and if it needs to be updated to include wildlands now that it is an issue.

Mr. Brown answered that there is a section in the Plan about wilderness but wildlands need to be addressed.

**The order of the meeting was returned to item A above.**

**VIII. REVIEW, UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF USFS MOUNTAIN CITY, RUBY MOUNTAINS AND JARBIDGE RANGER DISTRICTS COMBINED TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROJECT: ACTION ITEM**

- A. Tusayan National Forest Kaibab - Travel Management Project Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and rationale for selecting Alternative 3 with modifications.

Mr. Brown indicated one of the items that came out of the decision was limited game retrieval of elk which set a precedent and it will probably be appealed. He added that game retrieval is one of our issues with the Forest Service and we will have to wait and see what happens.

Mr. Abbas indicated the local Forest Service has been following the process and the decision has been appealed.

There was some discussion about what will be included in the local Travel Management Project and how this specific decision may be used to help make that determination.

There was also discussion about exceptions for different groups and that rules established by the Forest Service affect all groups equally.

- B. Discussion concerning the recent Public Hearing held on February 22, 2011, by the Elko County travel Management Committee.

Mr. Brown stated the meeting was productive, well attended and well received. He added they would like to plan one more meeting in April to be a show of solidarity more than anything and will include inviting representatives from adjacent states.

**IX. ELKO COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE / NDOW: NON-ACTION ITEM**  
Commissioner Wellington / Other

Commissioner Wellington reported that the State Commission meeting was held in Las Vegas in February where bear season and quotas were set. He stated that there was discussion about a trophy hunt for elk and trying to meet with representatives from Utah and Idaho to talk about future and ranching because of large amount of elk herds and possibly coordinating hunting seasons. He added that they also discussed setting seasons and some issues with the BLM and enforcement of grazing on federal land without paying fees.

**X. CORRESPONDENCE REPORT AND DISCUSSION: NON-ACTION ITEM**

NONE

**XI. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY STAFF COMMENTS: NON-ACTION ITEM**

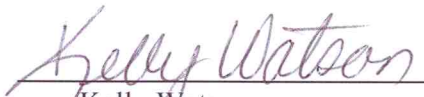
County Commissioner Williams stated Don Newman from ECVA talked about the economic impact of having no roads and how important it was to the County and today Mr. Newman gave him a copy of The American Cowboy that contains an article indicating the 20 best places to live in America and Elko County is listed as one of the places and he added that these types of designation are what the County doesn't want to lose because of reduction of access to federal lands.

There was discussion about how actions by the BLM and management of public lands affect Elko County.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT ACTION ITEM**

Chairman Spratling adjourned the meeting as there was no further business.

Minutes Clerk,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Watson

Date Approved, May 25, 2011